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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : Oliver NICKEL  
Serial No. : 09/431,849  
Filed : November 2, 1999  
For : MASKING STRIP AND THE USE THEREOF  
Art Unit : 1774  
Examiner : Lawrence Ferguson

Hon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 1, 2002

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**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 10, 2001, in the above-referenced patent application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel the previous version(s) of the following claims and replace them with the following rewritten versions. Marked up copy/copies showing the amendments since the previous version(s) is/are annexed as separate page(s):